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**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

3 AUG 1962

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MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : MILITARY NEWS: "The Combat Use of an  
Independent Missile Battalion", by  
Lieutenant-General of Artillery V. Goffe

1. Enclosed is a verbatim translation of an article which appeared in the Soviet Ministry of Defense publication Collection of Articles of the Journal Military News (Voyenny Vestnik). This publication is classified ~~SECRET~~ by the Soviets, and the issue in which this article appeared was distributed to officers from regimental commander upward.

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2. For convenience of reference by USIB agencies, the codeword  has been assigned to this series of TOP SECRET CSDB reports containing documentary Soviet material. The word  is classified  and is to be used only among persons authorized to read and handle this material.

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Richard Helms  
Deputy Director (Plans)

Enclosure

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Original: The Director of Central Intelligence

cc: The Director of Intelligence and Research,  
Department of State

The Director, Defense Intelligence Agency

The Director for Intelligence,  
The Joint Staff

The Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence,  
Department of the Army

The Director of Naval Intelligence  
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COUNTRY : USSR

SUBJECT : MILITARY NEWS: "The Combat Use of an Independent Missile Battalion", by Lieutenant-General of Artillery V. Goffe

DATE OF INFO : January 1961

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Following is a verbatim translation of an article entitled "The Combat Use of an Independent Missile Battalion", by Lieutenant-General of Artillery V. Goffe. This article appeared in Issue No. 34, 1961 of the Soviet military publication Collection of Articles of the Journal Military News (Voyenny Vestnik). This publication is classified ~~SECRET~~ by the Soviets and is published by the USSR Ministry of Defense.

According to the Preface, Issue No. 34 was sent for typesetting on 14 December 1960 and released to the printer on 25 January 1961. The Preface states that articles express the opinions of their authors and are published as a form of discussion. Distribution of Issue No. 34 was to officers from regimental commander upward.

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The Combat Use of an Independent Missile Battalion

by

Lieutenant-General of Artillery V. Goffe

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Nuclear strikes delivered by tactical missiles against enemy objectives, chosen skilfully and in good time, help in the accomplishment of the combat tasks of a division to a decisive degree. In order to make the maximum use of the battalion in combat, combined-arms and artillery commanders and their staffs must have a thorough knowledge of the organization, combat capabilities, and combat employment of this battalion.

The experience of tactical exercises which have been carried out and in which battalions armed with tactical missiles were engaged has shown that many problems of the combat employment of these battalions have not yet been fully resolved, and that certain of them need some elaboration. Thus, for example, there is still some vagueness on individual points in the interpretation of the duties and the scope of work of the commander of a division, of the division artillery commander and of their staffs in the planning and organization of the combat operations of a battalion. A list of the tasks which are to be fulfilled by tactical missiles in the basic types of combat has not, so far, been drawn up with sufficient clarity.

In this article we present a number of recommendations which, in our view, can be of help to commanders and staffs in questions of the use in combat of an independent missile battalion of a motorized rifle (tank) division.

As we know, a battalion has launching mounts, a radar station, control and servicing subunits and means for erection and transport (podyemno-transportnyye) for transporting missiles and for loading launching mounts. The considerable

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yield of missiles with nuclear charges and the high mobility of launching mounts allow a battalion to perform tasks on behalf of a motorized rifle (tank) division quickly and with a high degree of accuracy to a depth of 20 to 25 km in any situation, regardless of meteorological conditions (visibility) and of the degree of antiair defense of the objectives which are to be destroyed. When using missiles with conventional fillers, a battalion is able to carry out individual fire missions to a depth of 35 to 40 km.

A fundamental of the combat use of a battalion is the surprise delivery of nuclear strikes against accurately reconnoitered enemy targets in accordance with the situation and nature of the combat tasks being carried out by the units of the division. In organizing the combat operations of the battalion, the commander of a motorized rifle (tank) division, on the basis of the army commander's instructions, and taking into account the actual tactical situation, must determine the tasks to be fulfilled by the battalion within the zone of the division, must organize reconnaissance (combat reconnaissance) of targets and the checking of the results of nuclear strikes, must indicate the battalion's siting areas and the area of special attention (rayon osobogo vnimaniya) (the area of the targets) for the launching mount on duty, must allocate tasks concerned with the alteration of combat formation during the battle in good time, and must organize materiel-technical supply for the battalion. All the instructions of the division commander on the organization and conduct of the combat operations of a battalion are relayed to the commanding officer of the battalion through the division artillery commander.

In assigning tasks, a division commander must provide safety measures for the protection of battalion subunits both at disposition sites and on the march. The necessary number of rifle and tank subunits must be assigned to protect the battalion.

The staff of a motorized rifle (tank) division exercises constant control over the fulfilment of the instructions of the division commander on the combat employment of the

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battalion, takes into account the interests of the battalion when organizing and conducting reconnaissance of the enemy and exercises constant control over the battalion's operations through the staff of the division artillery. Direct control of the combat operations of the battalion is assigned to the division artillery commander and to his staff.

On the basis of the instructions of the division commander and of the senior artillery commander, the division artillery commander and his staff take part in the planning of the combat operations of the battalion, and in the control of the fire and movement of the battalion during the battle, they organize reconnaissance (combat reconnaissance) of targets by the reconnaissance means of the division's artillery; they check the performance by the battalion of measures for the preparation of fire and the accuracy of the calculation of the settings for fire for effect, they watch over the preparedness for fire of the mount on duty and over the uninterrupted supply of missiles to the battalion (especially during the battle), they check on the results of nuclear strikes and on the timeliness of shifts in the battalion's combat formation.

The timely and accurate fulfilment of the tasks assigned to the battalion in all types of combat is organized personally by the battalion commander. He determines the combat formation in the siting areas and organizes the engineer preparation of its elements, maintains a systematic check on the fulfilment of measures for topographical, meteorological, ballistic, and technical preparation for fire, checks the accuracy of the calculations of the settings computed for fire against the targets assigned, nominates a launching mount for duty and checks its readiness for fire, organizes the proper storage of missiles and the loading of the launching mounts at the transshipment point, and assigns tasks to the radar station in determining the coordinates and the altitude of bursts. By maintaining constant contact with his subunits, the battalion commander must be aware of their condition and must give them the necessary help in their fulfilment of the tasks assigned to them.

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In order to use missiles with nuclear charges most effectively, a battalion is employed in combat in a centralized manner as a rule. However, there may be cases in which it is advisable to carry out fire missions by using individual launching mounts. In particular, the enemy's means of nuclear attack are destroyed by the launching mounts on duty, which are nominated beforehand during the organization of the battle.

In support of the operations of a motorized rifle (tank) division, a battalion may fulfil the following tasks: the destruction of the enemy's means of nuclear attack ("Honest John", "Little John" and "Lacrosse" launching mounts, and 203.2 mm howitzers) during their deployment, at launch sites and assembly positions and also in their concentration areas; destroying tactical reserves, depots for warheads for tactical missiles, the control points (command posts) of first echelon units and large units, radio-technical means, water crossings, bridges, railroad stations, large defense installations, and other important enemy objectives (targets) in his tactical depth; the destruction of manpower, tanks, artillery and other fire weapons of the enemy in concentration areas, in defense areas, at offensive departure positions, and at lines of deployment for counterattacks.

For the fulfilment of fire missions, basic and alternate siting areas are allotted to the battalion by the order of the division commander or of the division artillery commander. The usual dimensions of a siting area are 4 to 5 km along the front and 5 to 7 km in depth.\*

The combat formation of a battalion must conform to the nature of the tasks assigned to it, must ensure their accurate fulfilment within short periods of time and the concealment of disposition and minimum vulnerability of the battalion's

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- \* The dimensions of a siting area and the distances between the elements of a combat formation, presented in the text and shown in Sketch #1, are not fixed and can be used within certain limits depending on the situation.

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subunits to strikes by nuclear weapons, aviation and ....  
/the rest of the line missing/. .... must ensure the centralized  
direction of fire and movement of the battalion's subunits.

The combat formation of a battalion (Sketch #1) consists of launching installations and a radar station, located at their positions, a battalion control point, the site of a meteorological post, and a missile transshipment point (punkt peregruzki raket). Launching mounts have assembly positions and launch sites prepared for them.

Assembly positions are occupied by launching mounts after a battalion is brought up from the concentration area, or after changing combat formation during the course of a battle, and after fulfilment of a fire mission from one of the launch sites. They are usually selected 2 to 3 km beyond the launch sites (one to each launching mount), are equipped in the engineering respect, and are intended for the concealment of launching mounts and their crews, and also for the execution of the most important unplanned fire missions by the launching mount on duty without maneuver inside the siting area. All work on the preparation of launching mounts for firing is done at the assembly positions.

Launch sites are selected in an area 6 to 10 km away from the enemy's main line of resistance. They are intended for the execution of planned fire missions and are occupied immediately before firing with the timing calculated so that the fire is opened precisely at the designated time and so that the launching mounts remain at the launch site only the minimum time required for preparation for firing.

Temporary launch sites are selected for the execution of separate planned and unplanned fire missions supporting the deployment of units of the division, for firing at distant enemy targets or at targets located within the zone of neighboring large units, or in other cases when this is required by a particular situation. Temporary launch sites may be situated in front or behind the launch site selected within the siting area, depending on the nature of the task assigned.

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The number of launch sites is designated in accordance with the scope of the tasks assigned to the battalion. Here, it must be taken into account that a launching mount usually fires only one shot from each launch site, i.e., it fulfils not more than one fire mission.

For protection from enemy nuclear strikes, launch sites, regardless of their purpose, must be separated from each other by about 2 km. The same requirement applies to assembly positions.

The site of the radar station is so chosen that the beam of the radar will catch the missile fired by the launching mount and will follow it through its trajectory. The experience of combat firings shows that it is advisable to locate artillery surveillance radar (artilleriyskaya radio-lokatsionnaya stantsiya obnaruzheniya mestnosti - ARSOM) stations in front of the launch sites.

The battalion control point is deployed approximately in the center of the area in which the launch sites are located. The meteorological post is located close to the battalion control point. The distance between the meteorological post and the launch sites must not exceed 2 km.

The missile transloading point is meant for the reception of storage and preparation of missiles for firing, and for the loading of the launching mounts. Transport vehicles and a mobile crane are located here, while the personnel and transportation means of the battalion's support subunits are disposed in the adjacent area. The missile transloading point is situated at a distance of 2 to 4 km from the assembly positions.

The degree of engineer preparation of the elements of the combat formation of a battalion is determined mainly by the availability of time and of means for the fulfilment of the necessary work, and by the nature of the terrain in the siting area. Combat engineer subunits and the necessary means for mechanization of the work are assigned to the battalion by an order from the division commander to carry out work

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on the engineer preparation of the most important elements of the battalion's combat formation - the missile transloading point, the assembly positions and launch sites and the control point.

It is advisable to dig individual trenches at the missile transloading point for prime movers and for the semitrailers of the transport vehicles. In size they will be considerably smaller than trenches for a prime mover together with a semitrailer, and they will be easier to camouflage.

Platforms for the loading of launching mounts must be prepared in such a way that it is not necessary for the transport vehicles (semitrailers) to move out of the trench. In such cases a mobile crane (Sketch #2) can lift a missile directly from a trench in which a semitrailer is concealed, and can load a launching mount which has arrived at the missile transloading point on the spot.

Covers for launching mounts at assembly positions are so equipped that it is possible, in case of necessity, to open fire immediately in a given direction without moving the mount, i.e., directly from the trench.

The battalion is supplied with missiles by army means, i.e., by the means of transport of the army missile-transport battalions. In exceptional cases missiles may be brought up to the transloading point by the transport vehicles of the battalion. One line missing...battalion commander on armament and to the commanding officer of a missile transport section. The receipt of the missiles at the transloading point is controlled personally by the battalion commander. The number and type of missiles delivered to the battalion are determined by the scope and nature of the fire missions planned by senior commanders when organizing the battle. Prime movers, having delivered missiles to the battalion, leave the loaded semitrailers there, pick up the empty semitrailers and return to the rear area. This method is convenient because there is no need to transfer missiles from one semitrailer to another.

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The loading of launching mounts is carried out, as a rule, at the missile transloading point, at which they arrive from the launch sites after the execution of a fire mission. In isolated cases, when there are good access routes to the the assembly positions, transport vehicles and the mobile crane can, if necessary, move up to the launching mounts and load them directly at the site.

Supplying missiles to a battalion when enough time is available during preparation for an offensive, for example, does not involve any particular difficulties. It is far more difficult to supply missiles to a battalion during the course of a battle. The fact is that the cross-country ability and mobility of transport vehicles and of a mobile crane is considerably lower than that of launching mounts. This means that the elements feeding missiles to the battalion (organic as well as those of senior commanders) may fall behind the fire subunits when the battalion combat formation moves.

In order to ensure the timely readiness for fire of a battalion, the commander of the missile troops and artillery of the army, the division commander, and the division artillery commander must take the most decisive measures to ensure the uninterrupted supply of missiles to the battalion during the progress of the battle. An improvement in the cross-country ability of the means for transport and loading may be achieved (here we are talking of such obvious measures as the improvement of roads) by placing prime movers and tow vehicles at the disposal of the battalion commander. In addition, in order to supply a battalion with ammunition, it is necessary to make more extensive use of the delivery of missiles to assembly positions and launch sites by specially equipped helicopters. When such a method of transportation is used, missiles should be carried secured transversely, without a container, in a set of detachable wrapping (komplekt otryvochnykh zhgutov) and, if necessary, with a heating jacket (chekhol obogreva). If at the moment of delivery of a missile by helicopter, there is no mobile crane near the site, the loading of the launching mount must also be carried out directly from the helicopter (with the help of pulleys

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and bracing wires). Such a method of loading calls for a high degree of training in the crews of the helicopters and launching mounts.

The reconnaissance of targets and of siting areas has great significance for the effectiveness of fire of a battalion. Target reconnaissance can be carried out with all the means available in a division, as well as by means which are assigned to it. Of all the available means for reconnaissance, artillery air reconnaissance can most successfully perform the tasks of locating targets for fire by tactical missiles. For this purpose, the aircraft of fire-directing and reconnaissance aviation and helicopters must be equipped with special photographic and radio-technical apparatus.

Artillery air reconnaissance conducted on behalf of tactical missile battalions is carried out in accordance with the plans of the combined-arms and artillery staffs by subunits of an army's fire-directing and reconnaissance aviation, and also by subunits which can be obtained as reinforcements by a motorized rifle (tank) division. Data on enemy means of nuclear attack and other important targets, obtained by artillery air reconnaissance, are supplemented by information obtained by reconnaissance groups dispatched to the rear area of the enemy, and by intelligence data received from agents.

The reconnaissance of siting areas and the selection of elements of combat formation are carried out in a battalion by an area reconnaissance party. (rekognostsirevochnaya gruppa). This party is dispatched in good time on the orders of the battalion commander and is usually headed by the battalion reconnaissance commander or the commander of the headquarters platoon. Included in this group are topographers (the topographic section of the headquarters platoon), signalmen and gunners.

Of no less importance to the effective use of a battalion is the organization of communications. A battalion commander will be able to direct the fire and movement of his battalion skilfully only if he has stable communications with his

  
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division commander, with the division artillery commander and with all his subunits.

Responsibility for the organization and maintenance of communications in a battalion rests with the commanding officer of the headquarters platoon. The battalion commander must direct the activities of the commanding officer of the headquarters platoon in questions of communications and must constantly supervise his work.

The planning of the fire of a battalion is carried out on the basis of the decisions of the division commander and of the instructions of the senior combined-arms and artillery commanders. The basic task of fire planning is the proper selection of targets for the fire of missiles with nuclear warheads, taking into account the battalion's fire capabilities, of a safe distance for our own troops, and of the effect of radioactive contamination of terrain on the enemy's operations and on the units of the division.

The planning of the fire of a battalion consists of: selecting targets and determining fire missions against each target; designating siting areas at the initial position and during a movement; determining the necessary yield of the nuclear charge, the type and height of burst, and the point of aim for each target, and the distribution of fire missions among the launching mounts. In order that the interval between opening fire against a target and its detection is as short as possible, probable objectives (target area) for the delivery of nuclear strikes are designated beforehand on the basis of the analysis of reconnaissance data and of the study of terrain within the enemy's disposition.

The selection of targets and the determination of fire missions against them when conducting fire with missiles with nuclear warheads is performed, as a rule, by the commander of combined-arms troops. The rest of the elements of planning..... /rest of sentence and whole of next page of text missing7.

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(..... the characteristics and coordinates of the targets against which nuclear strikes are delivered), fire missions, the numbers of the launching mounts designated to carry out a fire mission, ranges of fire, the yield of the missiles, the type and height of bursts for fire against each target, the number of the launch site from which firing is planned, the time at which it is to be occupied and the time for the delivery of the nuclear strikes. Indicated in an excerpt from the division fire schedule (battalion fire plan) when firing missiles with conventional or chemical fillers are: targets and their coordinates, the numbers of the launching mounts, the expenditure of missiles on each target, a chart of the delivery of fire, showing the times and the launch sites from which fire is to be conducted.

On the fire control chart of a division (battalion) artillery staff must be plotted: the zone of operations and the tasks of the division; the main line of resistance and the disposition of enemy objectives; the code names of local features and landmarks; the siting areas of the battalion in the initial position and after movement (showing the actual or planned disposition of all the elements of the combat formation); the routes and procedure for the movement of the battalion; the basic and alternate objectives (targets) for the delivery of nuclear strikes; the area of special attention for the launching mount on duty; the main direction of fire; the safe distance limits for our own troops; the direction and velocity of the wind; the expected dimensions and outlines of the areas of radioactive contamination of terrain by nuclear ground bursts (indicating the degree of contamination for a definite period of time); the targets or sectors for the conduct of missile fire with conventional or chemical fillers.

Control and warning signals, the call signs of stations and officials, the contents of the fire plan, and other supporting documents are attached to the fire control chart.

The missile supply plan is worked out in the division artillery staff and is forwarded to the battalion commander.

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Indicated in this plan are the number of missiles received by the battalion (with nuclear, conventional or chemical fillers), equivalents (yield in kilotons) of missile warheads with nuclear charges, the location and designation of the supply base, the delivery point and time of delivery of the missiles, by whose means the delivery is to be effected, the supply routes and the procedure for storing missiles at the transloading point.

The precision and timeliness with which a battalion fulfils its assigned tasks depend on the timeliness and precision with which the battalion prepares to fire. Preparation for fire calls for the carrying out of measures of topographical, meteorological, ballistic, and technical support, and for the calculation of settings for fire for effect.

If time is available and if there is a developed control survey net (opornaya set) in the siting area - and this will most often happen during the preparation for an offensive or in defense - topographical work is carried out by the most precise methods and with the help of the most accurate instruments. In such cases work on the tying-in of the elements of the battalion's combat formation will be conducted, as a rule, by the means of the topographic subunits of the senior artillery commanders as well as by the organic means (the topographical tyers-in (topoprivyazchik) of the battalion. If the battalion commander does not have at his disposal enough time or means, or if there are no control survey net points in the siting area (conditions typical for a battalion in action during a battle), coordinates of points are determined with the help of instruments on a map (aerial photograph) the scale of which is not smaller than 1 : 50.000, and the marking-out of the main direction or of the direction of the target - with the help of an adjusted aiming circle ..../remainder of sentence and whole of next page of text missing/.

Technical fire preparation is carried out at the assembly positions and at the missile transloading point. Here the missiles and launching mounts are carefully examined and checked. While a launching mount is being prepared, the

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sighting mechanisms, the electrical equipment, the special apparatus, and the rest of the mechanisms and component parts of the mount are checked. The preparation of a missile is accomplished by an external examination and by a check of the nose cone.

Settings for fire for effect are determined by computers of the data-preparation section, as a rule, with the help of a chart of computed corrections. The chart is made up in advance on the basis of data obtained as a result of topographical, meteorological, and ballistic preparations for fire. Also taken into account when determining computed data are corrections established as a result of technical preparation, and a number of other conditions of fire (systematic correction of the direction of the missile as it leaves the launching rail, a correction for the earth's rotation). In some cases, when no chart of computed corrections is available, settings for fire for effect are determined by calculations made directly from the target.

The computed settings are relayed by the battalion commander to the launch sites. The crews train the mounts on the target in accordance with these data.

In this article we have examined a number of general problems concerning the combat use of a tactical missile battalion. The work of artillery staffs and commanders, and the operations of a battalion in the various types of combat must, of course, be dealt with separately.

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